28.

[Document CC.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
FEBRUARY 20th, 1867.

Read and referred.

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

INSPECTIONS.

ANNAPOLIS:
HENRY A. LUCAS, PRINTER.

1867.

REPORT.

To the Honorable,

The General Assembly of Maryland:

The undersigned, appointed a joint committee of both branches of the Legislature to visit and report upon the condition of the State Tobacco Warehouses in the city of Baltimore, beg leave to submit the following as the result of their deliberations, and to invite your early attention to the consideration of the bill about to be presented by the committee and prayed to be considered as a part of this report. The committee, after visiting all the warehouses, held a conference with the buyers and commission merchants for the purpose of ascertaining their views in regard to modifications of the present system of inspection. Letters and suggestions of a thorough change, as by *leasing*, establishing a *board* of *licensed auctioneers*, and otherwise, have reached us; but after profound consideration we have concluded only to attempt a removal of the unnecessary and burthensome features of the Acts of 1864 and 1865. Impressed as is the public mind of the State, and particularly that region where the planting interest is almost exclusively staple, and therefore, the more to be protected, the committee suggest amendments of the law in regard to storing out of tobacco, the vexed question of cooperage, the quarterly sale of scraps, a monthly publication of the number of hogsheads of tobacco under charge of each Inspector, and other subjects noticed in the bill.

We would call the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the Tobacco Fund, once a source of much revenue to the State. Reference to the last report of the Comptroller will disclose the fact that no mention is made of this subject, although the general financial status of Maryland is prominent and in detail. It is important, we think, that a measure so comprehensive and valuable should be well guarded and protected by immediate statutory enactment. The condition of the warehouses were such as to call for stringent laws to prevent the accumulation of refuse matter, &c., &c., in them. All of them had not been thoroughly cleaned out for one year at least, and upon inquiry as to this neglect, the

committee were told that no time could be devoted to the purpose. Such a fact, in the face of the number of hands always employed is but another mark of the deranged machinery of the law now in force, the committee, however, have endeavored to reach the difficulty. Nearly all of the warehouses, more or less require repairing, and it is recommended that a law be passed authorizing the Inspectors at once to have the same attended to. In conclusion, your committee would say that the material prosperity of the State can in no better manner be enhanced than by earnest legislation in behalf of the tobacco interest. The value of a commodity so universally apprecaited by all the States of the Union, and destined to attract more of the capital of foreign countries, must commend itself to every fair and candid mind.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. C. MAGRUDER, Jr.

Chairman of the Committee.

GEORGE W. MORGAN,
THOMAS I. HALL,
PEREGRINE DAVIS,
R. MACKALL,
ISAAC YOUNG.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

http://www.archive.org/details/reportofjointcom1867mary